

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APP. NO. 09/386,965

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. Claims, 4, 6, 12, 26 and 40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-11, 13-25 and 27-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Butler et al., (USP 5,566,206).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

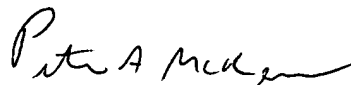
In detail, Applicant submits that Butler et al does not disclose every element of the rejected claims, as is required for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102. For example, Butler et al does not disclose that the pre-decoding step is performed without using Viterbi decoding.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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